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chitra  
katha

# HARSHA

THE GREAT RULER OF THANESHWAR

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If Harsha is remembered till this day as a great ruler, it is not only because he was a brave military leader, but also because he was a man of noble impulses, a great patron of learning and letters and he had great scholars like Banabhatta, Mayura and Divakara in his court.

72 Harsha came to occupy the throne of Thaneshwar at a very critical moment in its history. His father had died and his elder brother had been murdered by a powerful enemy. The neighbouring kingdom, Kannauj, ruled by Harsha's brother-in-law, had been overrun. Harsha not only surmounted these difficulties, but raised the small kingdom of Thaneshwar into the most powerful kingdom in Northern India.

Banabhatta's "Harshacharita" gives a detailed account of Harsha's life till he rescues Rajyashri. We know more about the political and economic conditions of his times from the account of Hiuen Tsang, who visited India during his reign.

AMAR CHITRA KATHA means good reading.

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Published by H.G. Mirchandani for India Book House Education Trust, 29, Wodehouse Road, Bombay - 400 039 and printed by A. C. Chobe at IBH Printers, Marol Naka, Mathuradas Vissanji Road, Andheri (East), Bombay - 400 059.

Editor: Anant Pai

Illustrated by: Madhu Powle

Written by: Yagy Sharma

Anand Prakash Singh

# HARSHA

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HAR  
HAR  
MAHADEV!



ABOUT 1,400 YEARS AGO, THANESHWAR, A POWERFUL KINGDOM IN NORTHERN INDIA WAS RULED BY PRABHAKAR VARDHAN. DURING THIS PERIOD THE HUNS HAD STARTED HARASSING THE PEOPLE OF THANESHWAR. SO THE KING SENT HIS ABLE SONS TO PUNISH THEM.



AFTER A BITTER FIGHT, THE  
HUNS RETREATED.

VICTORY TO PRINCE  
RAJYAVARDHAN! VICTORY  
TO PRINCE HARSHA!



HALT! IT IS GETTING  
DARK. LET US STOP  
FOLLOWING  
THEM.

YES, BROTHER!  
LET US  
CAMP HERE.



THE HUNS DID NOT ATTACK AGAIN.

ALL RIGHT,  
HARSHA!

THERE HAS  
BEEN NO FIGHTING  
FOR SEVERAL DAYS.  
I THINK I'LL GO  
ON A HUNT.



WHILE HUNTING FAR-  
AWAY FROM THE CAMP,  
HARSHA SAW  
SOMEBODY  
RIDING  
TOWARDS HIM.

HE SEEMS  
TO BE IN A  
GREAT  
HURRY.

PRINCE HARSHA,  
YOUR FATHER IS VERY  
ILL. HE WANTS TO SEE  
YOU AND PRINCE  
RAJYA.

I'LL GO TO  
HIM. YOU  
INFORM MY  
BROTHER.


BOTH PRINCES RUSHED TO THANESHWAR, BUT THEY WERE TOO LATE.

YOUR FATHER  
WAS A  
NOBLE KING.

A FEW DAYS LATER-


PRINCE RAJYA, YOU WILL NOW  
HAVE TO SIT ON THE  
THRONE.

OH, NO!  
LET HARSHA  
BE THE KING.




PRINCE HARSHA  
IS RIGHT,  
SIR.

CERTAINLY NOT.  
BEING THE ELDER BROTH-  
ER, IT IS YOUR RIGHT  
AND DUTY TO RULE.



MY  
BROTHERS  
ARE YOUNG AND  
INEXPERIENCED PLEASE  
GUIDE THEM.

LONG LIVE  
KING  
RAUYAVARDHA




IF YOU  
WISH, I WILL GO  
AND MEET THEM  
AFTER THE SPRING  
FESTIVAL.

RAJYASHRI, THEIR SISTER, WAS WORRIED. SHE TALKED  
TO HER HUSBAND GRAHAVARMAN, THE KING OF KANNAUJ.




MEANWHILE, DEVGUPTA, THE GREEDY KING OF MALWA  
WAS BUSY PLOTTING -




THE TIME  
IS RIPE.  
WE CAN NOW GRAB  
THE KINGDOMS OF  
THANESHWAR AND  
KANNAUJ.

BUT  
THEY ARE  
VERY POWERFUL,  
SIR.



I KNOW. BUT IF WE KILL GRAHA-  
VARMAN, THE INEXPERIENCED  
RAJYAVARDHAN WILL NOT BE  
ABLE TO DEFEND BOTH  
KINGDOMS.

BUT HOW ARE  
WE GOING TO KILL  
GRAHAVARMAN?



I HAVE A PLAN. DURING  
THE SPRING FESTIVAL,  
WE WILL DISGUISE OUR-  
SELVES AS SIMPLE  
PEASANTS AND MINGLE  
WITH THE COMMONERS  
OF KANNAUJ. WHEN  
GRAHAVARMAN COMES  
TO CELEBRATE THE  
FESTIVAL WITH HIS  
PEOPLE, WE WILL  
KILL HIM.



ACCORDING TO THEIR PLAN, DEVGUPTA AND HIS SOLDIERS DRESSED IN ORDINARY CLOTHES, MINGLED WITH THE PEOPLE OF KANNAUJ. THEN AS KING GRAHAVARMAN WAS ENTERING A TEMPLE -





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AFTER KILLING GRAHVARMAN, DEVGUPTA  
FORCIBLY CARRIED RAJYASHRI WITH HIM.

HELP!  
HELP!



THE NEWS OF DEVGUPTA'S TREACHERY  
REACHED RAJYAVARDHAN.

MAHARAJ,  
KING DEVGUPTA OF  
MALWA, HAS CARRIED AWAY  
YOUR SISTER.



DEVGUPTA  
HAS INVITED HIS  
DEATH.



MAHARAJ,  
ALLOW ME TO  
ATTACK  
MALWA.

NO,  
HARSHA!



BEING  
THE ELDER  
BROTHER  
AND THE  
KING IT IS  
MY DUTY  
TO  
DO SO.

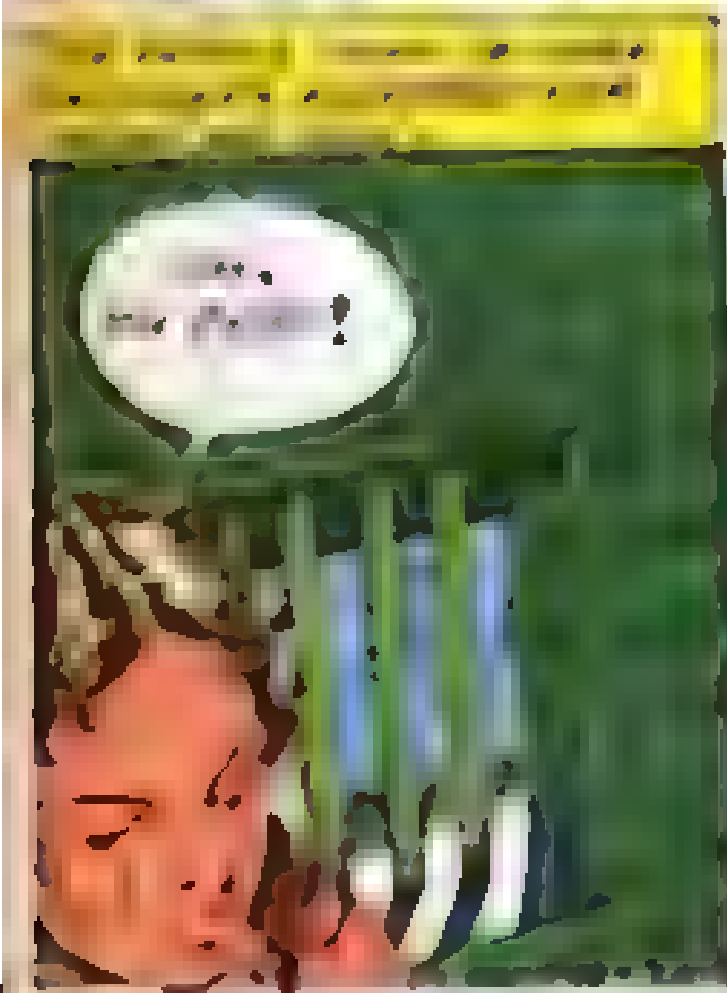
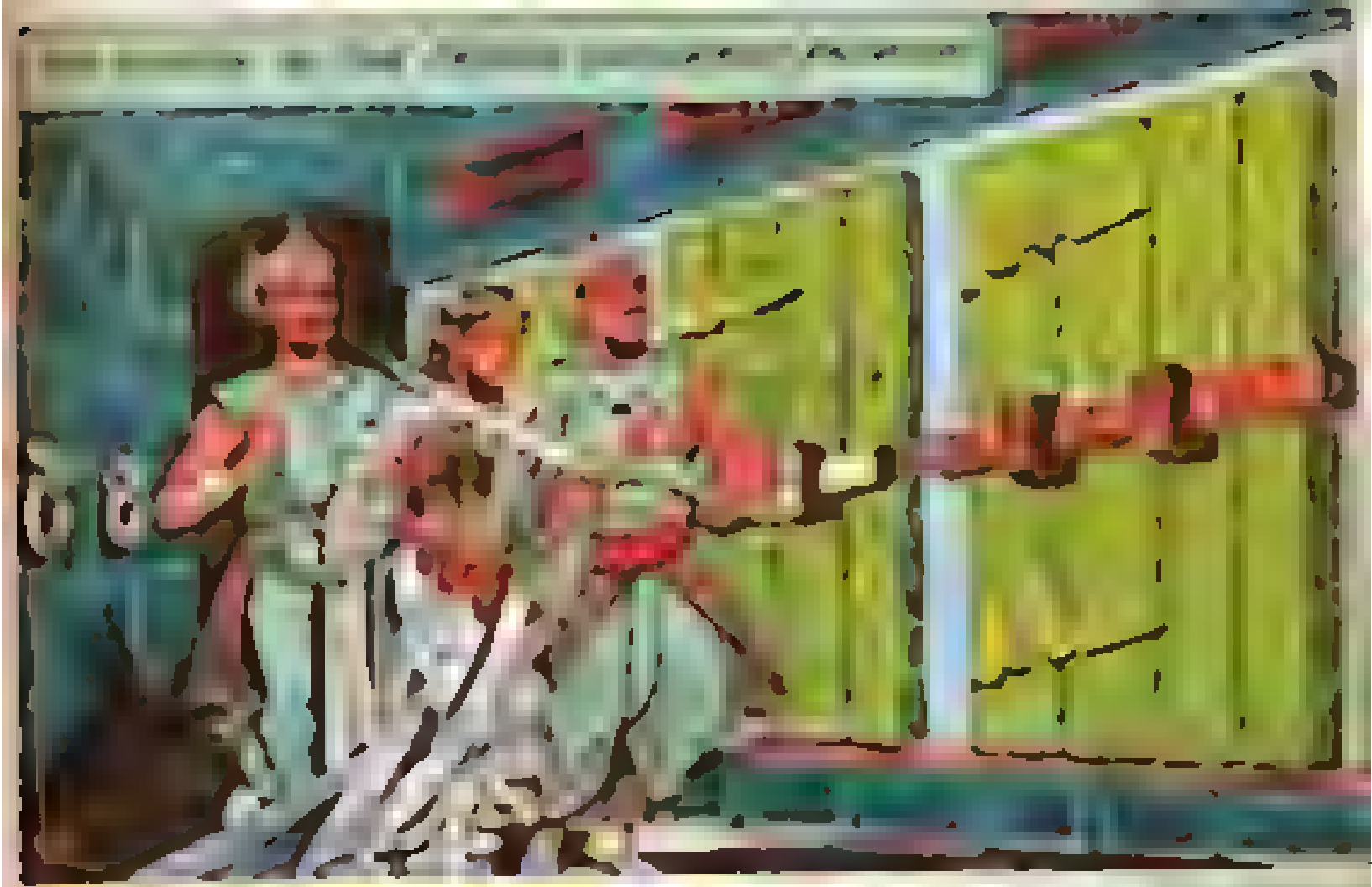


YOU HAVE  
BEHAVED  
LIKE A  
COWARD.

MEANWHILE IN MALWA-

SAY WHATEVER YOU  
LIKE. BUT I SHALL  
SOON BE THE KING OF  
KANNALU AS WELL AS  
THANESHWAR.

IMPRISON HER.  
LET HER LEARN TO  
RESPECT A  
KING.





JUST THEN, DRAUPADI RECEIVED A MESSAGE.

RAJMAVENDHAN  
IS PREPARING TO  
ATTACK US,  
SIR!

I EXPECTED  
THIS. GO AND CALL  
KING SHASHANK OF  
GAUD. I WANT TO TALK  
TO HIM.

MAV SENA, CAPTAIN WAS  
SCHEMING WITH SHASHANK

I WILL SHADE HALF OF  
THE KINGDOMS OF THE  
SHUR AND KANNAU  
WITH YOU IF YOU BE PRO

I WILL  
WHAT MUST  
I DO?

WIN  
RAJMAVENDHAN'S  
CONFIDENCE AND  
ACCOMPANY HIM  
IN HIS ATTACK ON ME.


WHEN THE BATTLE  
BEGINS, AT ALL  
RAJMAVENDHAN FROM  
THE REAR ONCE HE IS  
DEAD, WE'VE AS GOOD AS  
WON.

YOUR  
PLAN IS  
EXCELLENT WE  
WILL DEFINITELY  
SUCCEED.

SO, SHASHANK WITH HIS EVIL INTENTIONS  
MARCHED WITH RAJAWASDHAN TOWARDS MALWA.

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU  
FOR YOUR HELP, KING  
SHASHANK. YOU SHALL  
ALWAYS BE MY MOST  
TRUSTED FRIEND.

MY PERSONAL GUARDS  
SHALL PROTECT YOU  
WHILE YOU  
FIGHT.



WE NEED ALL THE  
SOLDIERS. LEAVE ONLY  
ONE MAN TO  
GUARD THE

THIS SECRET  
PASSAGE WILL  
CARRY YOU TO THE  
JUNGLE.

THANK YOU.  
YOU ARE VERY  
NOBLE. PLEASE TAKE  
CARE OF YOURSELF



THEY WERE ON THE WAY TO THE  
CITY OF THE FUTURE.



THEY WERE ON THE WAY TO THE  
CITY OF THE FUTURE.  
NOT SPOTTED BY THEM.



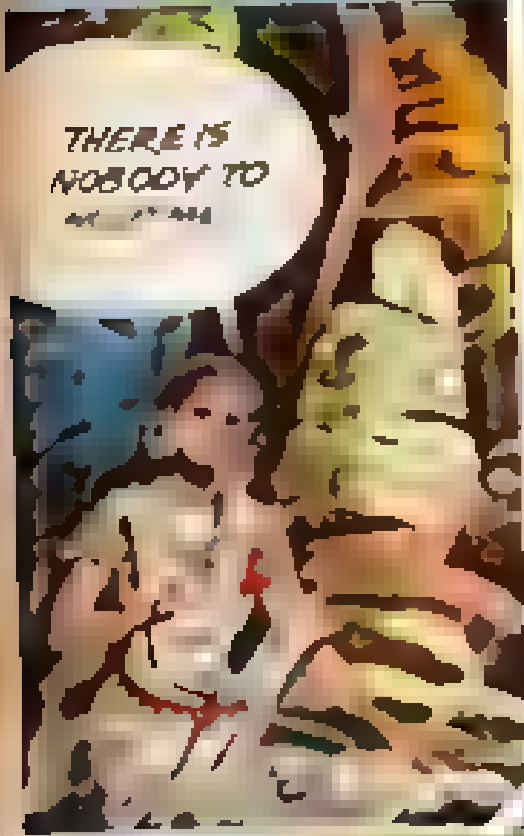
THEY WERE ON THE WAY TO THE  
CITY OF THE FUTURE.



VICTORY TO  
MAHARAJA RAMA-  
KARDHAN

WITH DEV-  
GUPTA'S DEATH,  
MY DREAMS ARE  
ALSO SHATTERED.

THE FIRST EARTHQUAKE  
IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD



THERE IS  
NOBODY TO  
HELP ME



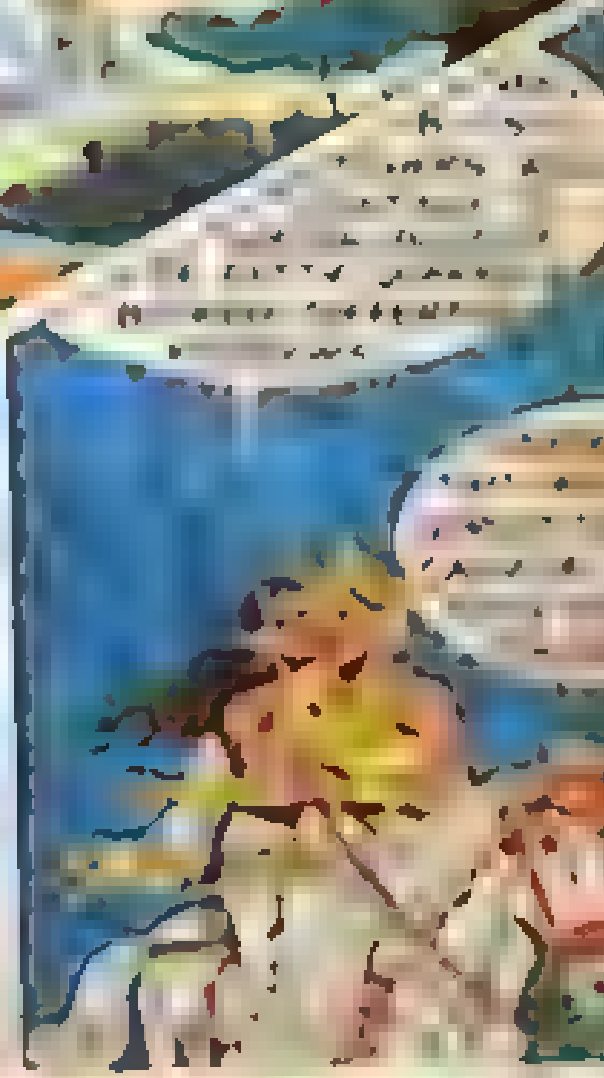
MY NAME IS  
LUCY AND  
I'M A  
WITCH

MY NAME IS  
LUCY AND  
I'M A  
WITCH

STOP!  
STOP!  
STOP!



MY NAME IS  
LUCY AND  
I'M A  
WITCH







NOW THAT ALL THE  
KINGDOMS HAVE COME  
UNDER ONE FLAG, THERE

PEASANTS WILL LIVE  
IN PEACE AT LAST

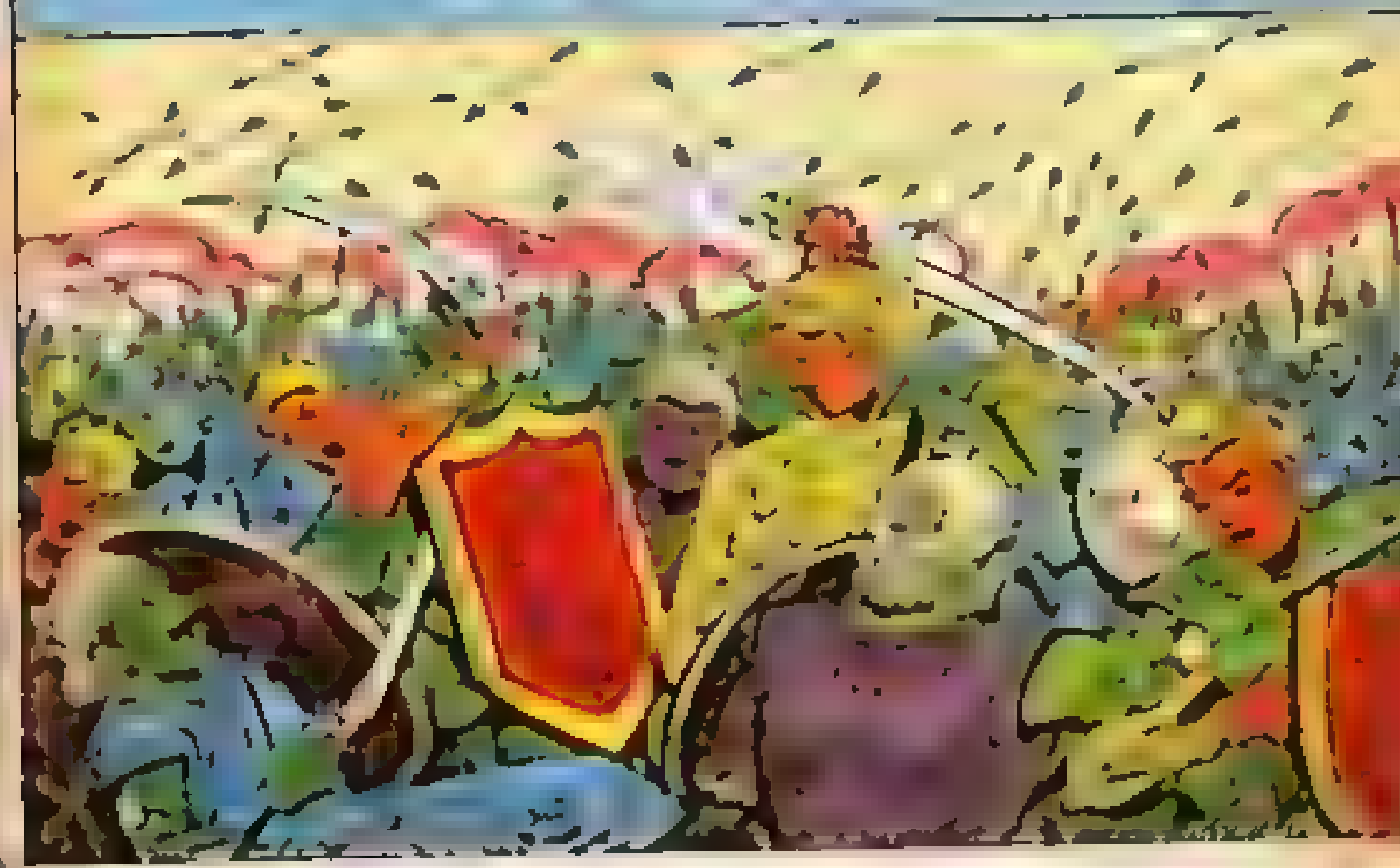
MAHARAJA PULAKESHIN,  
HARSHA HAS WON  
KINGDOMS AS FAR AS

WE MUST  
ATTACK

THEY WERE ALL AT THE DOOR OF THE HOUSE  
AND WERE ALL AT THE DOOR OF THE HOUSE



ALL AT THE DOOR OF THE HOUSE, ALL AT THE DOOR OF THE HOUSE



THEY FOUND THE BODIES OF THE TWO MEN WHO  
HAD BEEN KILLED BY THE INDIANS.



THEY WERE LAYING ON THE GROUND  
AND HAD BEEN KILLED BY THE INDIANS.



ALL  
THOSE MEN  
WERE KILLED  
BY THE INDIANS.

SOMETIME LATER IN THE EVENING

THEY WERE LAYING ON THE GROUND  
AND HAD BEEN KILLED BY THE INDIANS.  
THIS TIME HE WAS  
FULLY PREPARED TO  
CARRY HIM.

I HAVE  
HAD ENOUGH  
OF THE  
INDIANS.





THERE SHALL BE  
NO MORE  
WAR

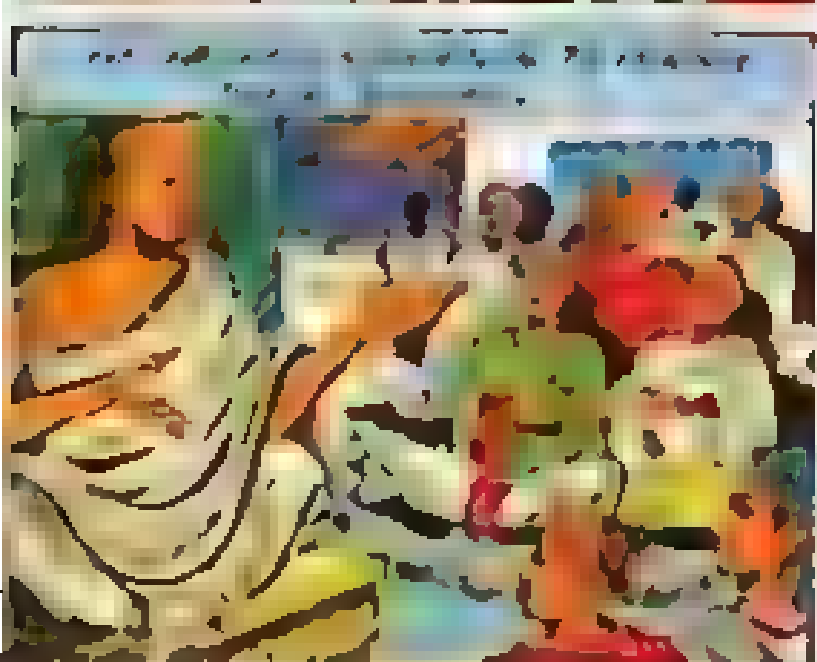
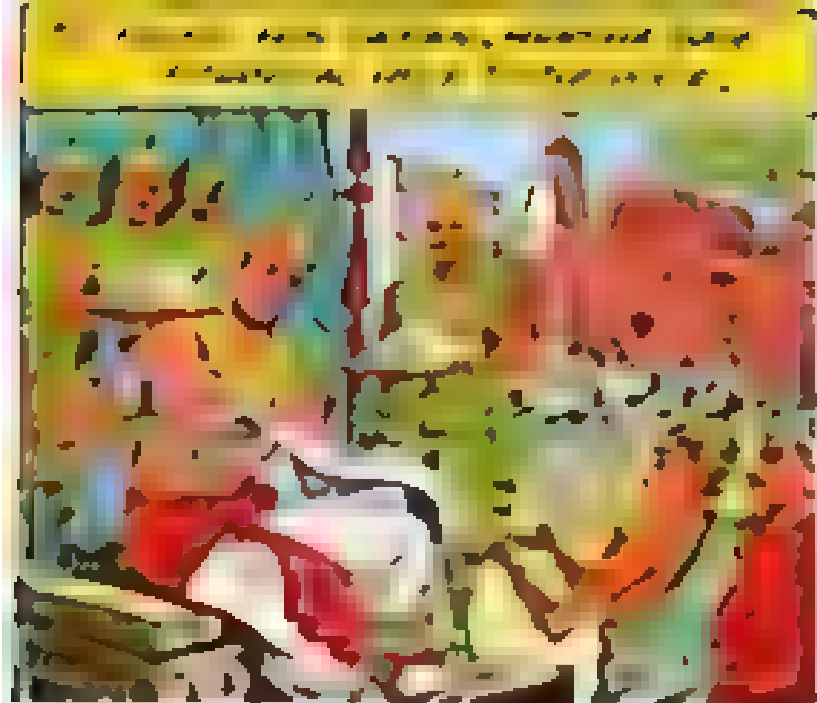
IN FUTURE,  
I SHALL BE  
A FATHER  
TO MY PEOPLE  
AND  
THEY SHALL  
BE  
THE PEOPLE



WE ARE  
A PEOPLE OF  
HAPPINESS  
AND  
PEACE

WE ARE  
A PEOPLE OF  
HAPPINESS  
AND  
PEACE



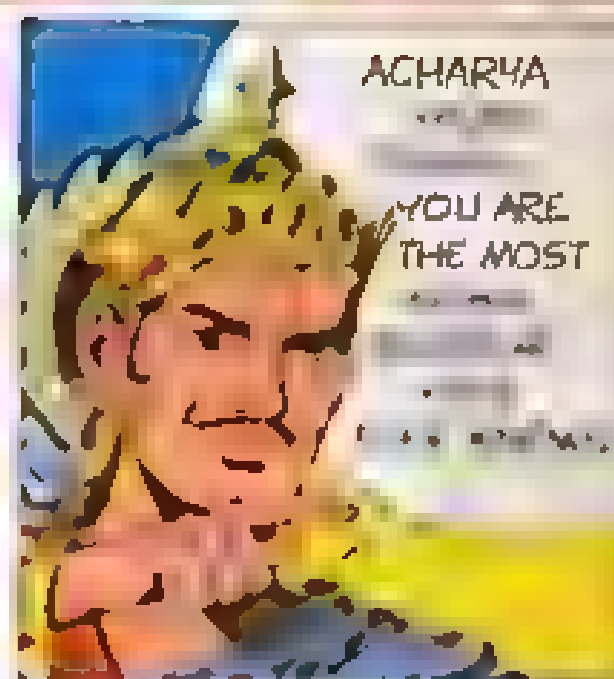




A SEMINAR ON RELIGIONS.

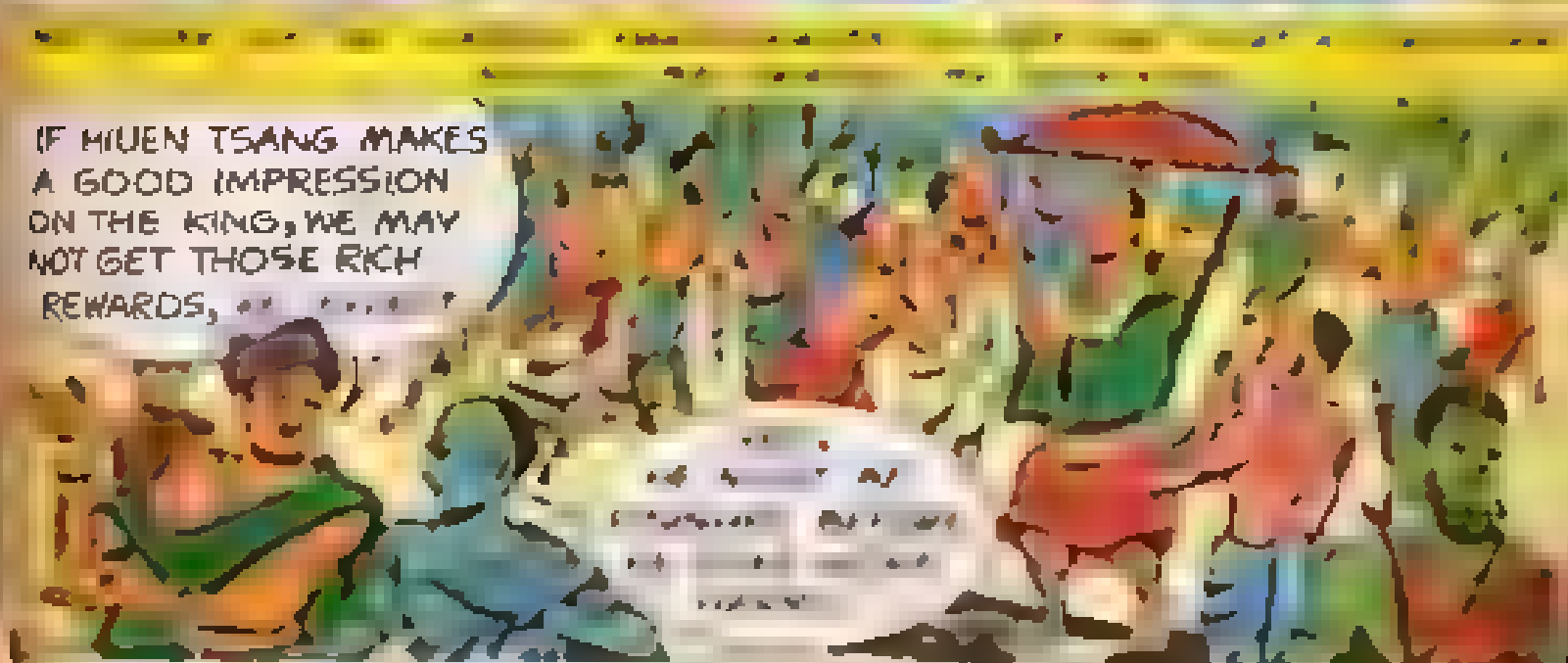






ACHARYA

YOU ARE  
THE MOST



IF HIUEN TSANG MAKES  
A GOOD IMPRESSION  
ON THE KING, WE MAY  
NOT GET THOSE RICH  
REWARDS, ..



I WARN THE  
ANYBODY WHO TRIES  
TO HARM ACHARYA  
HIJEN TSANG SHALL BE  
PUNISHED. PROCLAIM



THEY SHALL BE  
PROTECTED.  
THOSE  
FOR IT WITH  
THEIR  
OWN LIVES



HIJEN TSANG.

THE SEMINAR IS OVER.  
THE SCHOLARS SHOULD  
NOW BE PRESENTED  
WITH GIFTS.

THE  
ARRANGEMENTS  
HAVE BEEN MADE,  
MAHARAU!

FROM THE NEXT DAY, HARSHA STARTED PRESENTING GIFTS TO THE SCHOLARS AND PRIESTS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS.

PLEASE ACCEPT  
THIS SMALL TOKEN  
OF MY APPRECIATION.

MAY GOD BE  
ALWAYS WITH YOU,  
KING HARSHA!



THEN CAME THE TURN OF POOR PEASANTS.



SOON THE GIFTS BROUGHT FOR DONATION WERE EXHAUSTED. BUT STILL MANY PEOPLE REMAINED WITHOUT GIFTS.



THE ROYAL WEALTH WAS ALSO GIVEN AWAY BUT EVEN THEN SOME PEOPLE WERE LEFT OUT.



IN THE END ONLY ONE MAN WAS LEFT OUT.



I AM SORRY THAT NOTHING IS LEFT WITH ME EXCEPT THE CLOTHES I AM WEARING. PLEASE ACCEPT THEM.





IN THIS MANNER, EVERY FIVE YEARS, HARSHA GAVE AWAY ALL HIS WEALTH TO  
THE SCHOLARS, THE PRIESTS AND THE POOR.



AFTER COMPLETING HIS STUDIES, HIUEN TSANG WENT BACK TO CHINA. HE CARRIED WITH HIM MEMOIRS OF HIS VISIT WHICH BECAME WORLD FAMOUS AS TESTIMONIES OF OUR GREAT ANCIENT HERITAGE.

I HAVE KNOWN MANY KINGS BUT THERE IS NONE LIKE HARSHA. I HAVE SEEN MANY COUNTRIES BUT THERE IS NONE LIKE BHARAT. TRULY BHARAT IS A GREAT COUNTRY AND HER GREATNESS LIES IN HER PEOPLE AND IN HER RULERS LIKE HARSHA.

